<u>Amendment to the Claims</u>

Please amend Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71, and 74 to read as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, ~~the descriptions of the resources (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

reading the descriptions <u>of the resources, the descriptions (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources</u>;

displaying items, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in said reading step that has at least one attribute; and

browsing the descriptions of the resources and their corresponding electronically-accessible resources via the links using the displayed items.

2.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

3.　　(Previously Amended)　A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein one of the axes of access is a table-of-contents classification.

4.　　(Previously Amended)　A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein one of the axes of access is an index classification.

5.　　(Previously Amended)　A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the descriptions of the resources are generated using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

6.　　(Previously Amended)　A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

7.　　(Previously Amended)　A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are a persistent item of the description scheme.

8.　　(Previously Amended)　A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

9.　　(Previously Amended)　A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

10.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an item of digital content.

11.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

12.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an electronic device.

13.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the descriptions contains links to identified sections of a resource.

14.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein the axes of access are determined by rules operating on the description.

15.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein the axes of access are determined during the generation of the description of the resource.

16.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components representative of the at least two axes of access are inferred from the content of the description.

17.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be a table of content descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resource or a section of a resource.

18.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not inferred to be a table of contents descriptor.

19-31. (Cancelled)

32.   (Currently Amended) A method of annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, ~~the description of the resource being a separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for that feature, one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

reading ~~one or more descriptions~~ <u>the description of the resources, the description being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature, one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute;</u>

- 5 -

displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

selecting one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

selecting one displayed index item;

associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

choosing a representative value for the selected index item; and

associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item,

wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

33.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein each description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

34.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said step of associating the selected display index item is allowed only if the corresponding

- 6 -

descriptor of the selected display index item is a valid descriptor for the table of contents item selected for annotation.

35.   (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said step of choosing a representative value is predetermined.

36.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, ~~the descriptions of the resources (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources,~~ said apparatus comprising:

means for reading the descriptions <u>of the resources, the descriptions (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources;</u>

means for displaying items, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read by said reading means that has at least one attribute; and

means for browsing the descriptions of the resources ~~an~~ <u>and</u> their corresponding electronically-accessible resources via the links using the displayed items.

37.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said means for reading the descriptions represents each description by a tree of descriptor

components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

38.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein one of the axes of access is a table-of-contents classification.

39.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein one of the axes of access is an index classification.

40.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the descriptions of the resources are provided using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

41.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

42.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are persistent items of the description scheme.

43.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

44.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

45.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an item of digital content.

46.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

47.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an electronic device.

48.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein each of the descriptions contains links to identified sections of the resource.

49.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein the axes of access are determined by rules operating on the description.

50.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein the axes of access are determined during the generation of the description of the resource.

51.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 118, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components representative of the at least two axes of access are inferred from the content of the description.

52.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be a table of content descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resources or a section of a resource.

53.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not inferred to be a table of contents descriptor.

54-66. (Cancelled)

67.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, ~~the description of the resource being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for that feature, one or more of the descriptor components includes a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute,~~ said apparatus comprising:

    means for reading ~~one or more descriptions~~ the description of the resource, the description being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of

- 10 -

which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for that feature, one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute;

means for displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

means for selecting one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

means for displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

means for selecting one displayed index item;

means for associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

means for choosing the representative value for the selected index item; and

means for associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item,

wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

68.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein said reading means represents each description by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

- 11 -

69.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein operation of said associating means is allowed only if the corresponding descriptor of the selected display index item is a valid descriptor for the table of contents item selected for annotation.

70.   (Previously Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein operation of said means for selecting one said table of contents item is optional and if not performed said means for displaying an index displays all index items associated with all table of contents items.

71.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, ~~the descriptions of the resources (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources~~, said computer program comprising:

code for reading the descriptions <u>of the resources, the descriptions (i) having descriptor components having attributes representative of access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources and (iii) having links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources</u>;

code for displaying items, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read by said reading code that has at least one attribute; and

- 12 -

code for browsing the descriptions of the resources and their corresponding electronically-accessible resources via the links using the displayed items.

72-73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, ~~the description of the resource being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for that feature, one or more of the descriptor components includes a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute,~~ said computer program comprising:

code for reading ~~one or more descriptions~~ <u>the description of the resource, the description being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature, one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute;</u>

code for displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

code for selecting one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

code for displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

code for selecting one displayed index item;

code for associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

code for choosing the representative value for the selected index item; and

code for associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item,

wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

75-116. (Cancelled)

117. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attributes are representative of at least two axes of access to the resources.

118. (Previously Added) Apparatus as claimed in claim 36 wherein the attributes are representative of at least two axes of access to the resources.